

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Call to Order: By **VICE CHAIRMAN MARK NOENNIG**, on January 24, 2003 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 172 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Arlene Becker, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Mark Noennig, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Tom Facey (D)
Rep. Ray Hawk (R)
Rep. Daniel S. Hurwitz (R)
Rep. Larry Jent (D)
Rep. Penny Morgan (R)
Rep. Holly Raser (D)
Rep. Don Roberts (R)
Rep. Ron Stoker (R)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Bill Thomas, Chairman (R)
Rep. Steven Gallus (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Susan Fox, Legislative Branch
CJ Johnson, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Time stamp precedes material covered.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HJR 13, 1/24/2003
Executive Action: None

HEARING ON HJR 13

Sponsor: REP. DAN HURWITZ, HD 40

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. HURWITZ said this is a joint resolution requesting the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to conduct a study regarding the Medicaid program and report to the 59th Legislature outlining the options for the redesign of the Montana Medicaid program. He then turned the time over to Director Gray to further explain the details.

Proponents:

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 4.2 - 17.3}

Director Gail Gray, DPHHS, testified in behalf of DPHHS and Governor Judy Martz in support of HJR 13. She explained that this study was referred to by the Governor in her State-of-the-State address. She said there are two amendments the department will address, instead of just studying the Medicaid program, they want to study all of the programs under the DPHHS (including mental health services plan and the CHIP program). Director Gray continued explaining her written testimony (Ex. 1), and the various points on that exhibit. 2) Ex. 2 is a page listing the amendments requested by the DPHHS.

EXHIBIT (huh15a01)

EXHIBIT (huh15a02)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 17.7 - 20.2}

Steve Yeakel, Montana Council for Maternal and Child Health, supported the study to change the Medicaid program to make Montana Medicaid more effective.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 20.4 - 25.4}

Beta Lovitt, Montana Medical Association, Montana Psychiatric Association, stated the time has come for change. She and her clients urge the committee to vote favorably for this resolution.

Martie Wangen, Montana Optometric Association, Montana Podiatric Medical Association, and Montana Psychological Association, urges a DO PASS.

Kristi Blazer, Rimrock Foundation, KIDS Behavioral Health of Montana, stated she and her clients support a DO PASS also.

Al Davis, Montana Mental Health Association, said he supports this bill. He stated that he hopes the advocacy groups will get together to combine efforts and keep up on changes being made.

Opponents: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 26.1 - 28.2}

REP. PENNY MORGAN asked Director Gray if the study will include a study of the administrative costs of the programs as well as the programs themselves. **Director Gray** responded that they will include everything and will be looking into operating the department more efficiently. **REP. MORGAN** further questioned if the department itself will evaluate its own efficiency. **Director Gray** replied that they would most definitely include the DPHHS.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 28.3 - 33.6}

REP. RAY HAWK asked who will be included in doing the study. **Director Gray** replied that the details aren't complete, but legislators will be included in the process of the study. The study does not include an outline of those to be involved. **REP. HAWK** then asked about the cost of the study. **Director Gray** said there is no fiscal note because they don't plan for any cost from the General Fund. One person in charge will be paid by existing funds.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 33.7 - 38.9}

REP. ARLENE BECKER asked about the Montana Mental Health Services (MMHS) Plan and their expenditures as shown in Exhibit 1. She asked if there was any federal match money to that. **Director Gray** responded that there was no match on this program.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 39.1 - 51.5}

VICE CHAIRMAN NOENNIG asked for clarification on the money figures **Director Gray** was referring to about the MMHS so she further explained those with mental illness who do not qualify for Medicaid. **VICE CHAIRMAN NOENNIG** further asked about the nature of the committee being a joint resolution and the intent of the study. He thought it was unusual that it was not intended to be a legislative interim committee study even though it was a resolution. **Director Gray** explained the desire to involve the

legislators, but they wanted more than only legislators doing the study. The purpose is to come to the next legislative session with a recommendation for the reform.

REP. RON STOKER asked what keeps the 5,000 mental health patients from qualifying for matching Medicaid. **Director Gray** said there are a number of reasons. She said that they might have too many resources or income above the cut-off level, but still not be able to afford the services they need. The Mental Health Services Plan helps those people in-between.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 51.8 - 58.1}

REP. MORGAN asked why the federal government has no subsidies. **Director Gray** explained that the Mental Health Services under Medicaid are covered under federal guidelines (they are in addition). The MMHS was formed to help those that aren't eligible for Medicaid but still can't afford the services.

REP. STOKER asked about how the allotted \$2,200 per person is used. **John Chappuis, DPHHS**, replied that over \$4 million of the \$11 million is drugs, which is the fastest growing area. Also included are counseling and psychiatric care.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 58.4 - 61}

VICE CHAIRMAN NOENNIG asked a question about the amendment wording regarding the periodic reports to the interim committee. **Director Gray** said they support the reports to the legislature and have all intention of keeping everyone informed.

Closing by Sponsor:

Sponsor closed on HJR 13.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:35 P.M.

REP. BILL THOMAS, Chairman

CJ JOHNSON, Secretary

BT/CJ

EXHIBIT (huh15aad)